Accidents due to cracks in wheels

468. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven recent accidents have been caused due to cracks in the wheels supplied by Durgapur Steel Plant;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Railways against the Durgapur Steel Plant;

(c) whether enquiry has been ordered by the Railways to find out the causes for recent accident; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) There have been five incidents of wheel breakage on run in the calendar year 2003 which have resulted in accidents. All incidents relate to wheels supplied by Durgapur Steel Plant.

(b) Action has been taken by deputing Quality Audit teams from Railways and Research, Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO) to Durgapur Steel Plant for improving quality of steel and the process of manufactures.

(c) and (d) All consequential train accidents are enquired into either by a departmental committee of Railway officers or by the Commissioner of Railway Safety, or by a Judicial Commission.

Collision of Rohtak bound passenger train

469. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the collision of Tilak bridge-Rohtak passenger train with a shunting engine at Shakur Basti yard on the 23rd August, 2003, was due to staff failure as per the enquiry conducted by the Northern Railway Commissioner of Railway Safety;

(b) if so, the nature of staff failures, the circumstances leading to such failures and why mechancial devices could not warn about the impending failure; and

(c) the action taken against the errant staff and to prevent such staff failures in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Commissioner of Railway Safety, Northern-Circle, has established the cause of the side collision of 1 TR Tilak Bridge-Rohtak Shuttle passenger train on 23.08.2003 as "infringement caused by the shunting engine to the route of 1 TR Tilak Bridge-Rohtak passenger". The concerned staff failed in ensuring safe passage of train movements in Shakurbasti Yard. Complete track circuiting in the yard, Auxiliary Warning System or Anti-Collision Device, which if available at this station, could have prevented the accident.

(c) Three staff have been placed under suspension and disciplinary action against the errant staff is under process.

Berths in Udyan Express

470. SHRI K.B. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of IInd class three tier berths provided to Gulbarga in Udyan Express running between Bangalore-Mumbai;

(b) whether Government are aware that there is great demand for additional coaches to Gulbarga from Bangalore and at Gulbarga in Mumbai-Bangalore Udyan Express; and

(c) whether Government would provide more berths to Gulbarga in the Udyan Express?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL) : (a) At present a reservation quota of 72 Sleeper class berths by 6530 Bangalore-Mumbai CST Udyan Express and 256 Sleeper Class berths by 6529 Mumbai CSTM-Bangalore, Udyan Express is available for Gulbarga.

(b) and (c) Keeping in view the demands being received for enhancement of reservation quota, decision has been taken to allot additional quota of 6 Sleeper Class berths by 6529 Mumbai CSTM-Bangalore Udyan Express at Gulbarga from an earliest possible date. As the train is running with its maximum permissible load, augmentation of its load is not feasible at present.